Numb. 108.

The Pennſylvania Gazette.

Containing the freſheſt Advices Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Thurſday, December 3. to Tueſday, December 8. 1730.

As there are ſeveral Lodges *of* FREE-MASONS *erected in this Province, and People have lately been much amus'd with Conjectures concerning them; we think the following Account of* Free-Maſonry *from* London, *will not be unacceptable to our Readers.*

LONDON, Auguſt 12.

BY the Death of a Gentleman who was one of the Brotherhood of FREE-MASONS, there has lately happen'd a Diſcovery of abundance of their ſecret Signs and Wonders, with the myſterious Manner of their Admiſſion into that Fraternity. The following is a true Copy of a Manuſcript which the Deceaſed had written for the Benefit of his own private Remembrance, and which was found conceal'd among his choiceſt Papers in the moſt hidden Part of his Cabinet. The World has long admir'd, that in ſuch a numerous Company, many of them not remarkable for Taciturnity, there has been no one found, that in his Cups, or in any other Circumſtance, would diſcover their Myſteries: But the whole appears ſo childiſh and ridiculous, that this is probably the Caſe, Their Grand Secret is, *That they have no Secret at all*; and when once a Man is enter'd, he finds himſelf oblig'd, *ſe defendendo*, to carry on the Jeſt with as ſolemn a Face as the reſt. We ſhall not uſe many Words to perſuade the Publick that the following Piece is genuine; it carries all the Marks of Truth in itſelf: We would only refer the Reader to the Conduct of the Brotherhood upon this Occaſion; if they *ridicule* it, or look *very grave* upon it, or if they are *very angry* and endeavour to *decry* it, he may be ſatisfied it is the *real Truth.*

The Myſtery of *Free-Maſonry.*

Queſtion, ARE you a Maſon? *Anſwer*, I am. *Q.* How ſhall I know you are a Maſon? *A.* By Signs, Tokens, and Points of my Entrance. *Q.* How was you made? *A.* Neither naked nor cloathed, ſtanding or lying, but in due Form. *Q.* Give me a Sign? *A.* Every Square is a Sign; but the moſt ſolemn is the Right-Hand upon the Left Breaſt, the Arm hanging down, a little extended from the Body. *Q.* Give me a Letter? *A.* B. O. A. Z. [*When this Queſtion is ask'd, you are to give the Letter* B. *The Queriſt will ſay* O. *you* A. *he* Z.] *Q.* Give me another? *A.* J. A. C. H. I. N. [*Alternately as* Boaz, *N. B.* Boaz *and* Jachin *were two Pillars in* Solomon's *Porch.* 1 Kings vii. 21.] *Q.* To what Lodge do you belong? *A.* To the holy Lodge of St. *John.* *Q.* How is it ſeated? *A.* Eaſt and Weſt as all other Temples are. *Q.* Where was you enter'd? *A.* In a juſt and perfect Lodge. *Q.* What makes a juſt and perfect Lodge? *A.* A Maſter, two Wardens, and four Fellows, with Square, Compaſs and Common Gudge. [N. B *One of them muſt be a Working Maſon.*] *Q.* Where was you made? *A.* In the Valley of *Jehoſaphat*, behind aRuſh Buſh, where a Dog was never heard to Bark, nor a Cock to Crow, or elſewhere. *Q.* Where was the firſt Lodge kept? *A.* In *Solomon's* Porch; the Pillars were called *Jachin* and *Boaz.* *Q.* How many Orders be there in Architecture? *A* There be five, Tuſcan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Compoſite or Roman Orders. *Q.* How many Points be there in the Fellowſhip? *A.* There be Five, 1. Foot to Foot. 2. Knee to Knee. 3. Hand to Hand. 4. Heart to Heart. 5. Ear to Ear. *Q.* How do Maſons take their Place in Work? *A.* The Maſter's Place Eaſt, the Warden's Eaſt, and the Fellows the Eaſtern Paſſage. *Q.* How many precious Jewels be there in Maſonry? *A.* Three; the Maſter, Wardens and Fellows. *Q.* Whence comes the Pattern of an Arch? *A.* From the Rainbow. *Q.* Is there a Key for your Lodge? *A.* Yes there is. *Q.* Where is it kept? *A.* In an Ivory Box, between my Tongue and my Teeth: Or, under the Lap of my Liver, where the Secrets of my Heart are *Q.* Is there a Chain to your Key? *A.* Yes there is. *Q.* How long is it? *A.* As long as from my Tongue to my Heart. *Q.* Where does the Key of the Working Lodge lie? *A.* It lies upon the Right Hand from the Door two Feet and a Half, under a green Turf, or under a ſquare Aſhler. *Q.* Where does the Maſter Maſon ſet his Mark upon the Work? *A.* Upon the South Eaſt Corner. *Q.* Have you been in the Kitchin? [N. B. *You ſhall know an enter'd Apprentice by this Queſtion*] *A.* Yes, I have. *Q.* Did you ever Dine in the Hall? [*A Brother Maſon by this Queſtion*] Yes, I did. *Q.* How old are you? *A.* Under 5, or under 7. Which you will. [N. B. *When you are firſt made a Maſon, you are only enter'd Apprentice; and till you are made a Maſter, or, as they call it, paſs'd the Maſter's Part, you are only an enter'd Apprentice, and conſequently muſt anſwer under* 7. *for if you ſay above, they will expect the Maſter's Word and Signs.* Note, *There is not one Maſon in a Hundred that will be at the Expence to paſs the Maſter's Part, unleſs it be for Intereſt*] *Q.* How was you admitted? [N. B. *Some will ask, what was that Form, after the third Queſtion and Anſwer above*] *A.* When I came to the firſt Door, a Man with a drawn Sword asked me, If I had any Weapons? I anſwer'd, No. Upon which he let me paſs by him into a dark Entry; there two Wardens took me under each Arm, and conducted me from Darkneſs into Light, paſſing thro' two Rows of the Brotherhood, who ſtood mute, to the upper End of the Room, from whence the Maſter went down the Outſide of one of the Rows, and touching a young Brother on the Shoulder, ſaid, Who have we here? To which he anſwer'd, A Gentleman who deſires to be admitted a Member of the Society. Upon which he came up again, and asked me, If I came there thro' my own Deſire, or at the Requeſt or Deſire of another? I ſaid, My own. He then told me, If I would become a Brother of their Society, I muſt take the Oath adminiſtred on that Occaſion. To which aſſenting, a Square was laid on the Ground, in which they made me kneel bare-knee'd, and giving a Compaſs into my Right Hand, I ſet the Point to my left Breaſt, and my left Arm hanging down. The Words of the Oath I can't Remember, but the Purport was as follows:

I Solemnly Proteſt and Swear, in the Preſence of Almighty God, and this Society, that I will not, by Word of Mouth or Signs, diſcover any Secrets which ſhall be communicated to me this Night, or at any Time hereafter: That I will not write, carve, engrave, or cauſe to be written, carved or engraven the ſame, either upon Paper, Copper, Braſs, Wood or Stone, or any Moveable or Immoveable, or any other Way diſcover the ſame, to any but a Brother or Fellow Craft, under no leſs Penalty than having my Heart pluck'd thro' the Pap of my left Breaſt, my Tongue by the Roots from the Roof of my Mouth, my Body to be burnt, and my Aſhes to be ſcattered abroad in the Wind, whereby I may be loſt to the Remembrance of a Brother.

After which I was cloathed. [N. B. *The Cloathing is putting on the Apron and Gloves.*] *Q.* How was the Maſter cloathed? *A.* In a Yellow Jacket and blue pair of Breeches. [N. B. *The Maſter is not otherwiſe cloathed than common; The Queſtion and Anſwer are only Emblematical; the yellow Jacket, the Compaſſes, and the blue Breeches, the Steel Points.*] *Q.* What was you doing while the Oath was tendering? *A.* I was kneeling bare knee'd betwixt the Bible and the Square, taking the ſolemn Oath of a Maſon. [Note, *There is a Bible put in the Right Hand, and the Square under the Right Elbow.*

FOREIGN

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Palermo in *Sicily*, *Auguſt* 16. N. S.

YESTERDAY being the Aſſumption of the Bleſſed Virgin, and uſually a Day of Feaſting here, was then turned into a Faſt: For when the Proceſſion, which goes every Year out of the City, was coming in again, a terrible Fire broke out in a Houſe in the High Street, and proper Means not being immediately uſed to extinguiſh it, and the Wind being very high, the adjoining Houſes, and ſoon after a great many more, were all in Flames; ſo that almoſt all the Buildings, from the Gate of Vienna to the Arſenal, were laid in Aſhes; and among them the Jeſuits College and the Great Tower. The Fire was ſo fierce, that the Bells in that Tower were melted. The Carmelites Church and the Town Houſe were likewiſe burnt; but the Records were happily ſaved. The ſame Evening about 7 o'Clock, the Powder Room of the Royal Baſtion, in which were at leaſt 400 Barrels of Gunpowder, blew up with the moſt dreadful Report; whereby not only Part of that Baſtion, but a great Number of Houſes were demoliſhed, and abundance of People buried under their Ruins. Afterwards the Arſenal, with all the Houſes about it, were likewiſe blown up; as was alſo the little Magazine in which was a large Quantity of fill'd Bombs, Carcaſſes and Grenades. The Magazine in the lower Town was in great Danger, but was ſaved however. The Soldiers Cazerns, the Governor's Houſe, and the Guard Chamber were alſo deſtroyed, and only the Franciſcans Cloiſter, that of the Nuns of St. Cæcilia, and the Great Powder Magazine in Leopold's Baſtion eſcaped. The Wind was ſo boiſterous, that red hot Tiles, &c. were blown from the Tops of the Houſes into the adjacent Villages. The Damage done by this dreadful Fire is incredibly great, the Governor alone having loſt to the Value of 20,000 Rixdollars in Plate and Furniture.

LONDON, *Sept.* 17.

Extract of a Letter from James Fort, *on the River* Gambia *in* Guinea, *dated*, July 4, 1730.

We have had a bloody Tragedy perpetrated lately in this River, for on the 25th of laſt Month, the Emperor of Fonca, which is on the South Side of this River, oppoſite to our Fort, was horribly maſſacred with his Family, by his rebellious Subjects, who coming ſuddenly in the Night-time, ſet Fire to his Houſe in his Capital Town, permitting none to come out, and burnt him, his Mother, 7 Wives, 2 Brothers, and moſt of his Children and Servants to Death.

The following is a Copy of a Poſtſcript to a Letter, dated at James River *in* Virginia, July 30, 1730.

We have at this Inſtant an Account of an Inſurrection of the Negroes about Williamsburg, occaſioned by a Report at Coll. Sportſwood's Arrival, that he had Direction from his Majeſty to free all baptiz'd Negroes; many Maſters and Miſtreſſes having baptized their Slaves in Order to inſtruct them in the Chriſtian Faith: The Negroes have improv'd this Notion to a great Height: It is ſaid ſome of the Ringleaders are taken: Five Counties are in Arms purſuing others, with Orders to kill them if they do not ſubmit.

Sept. 19. The Account in our laſt of the Inſurrection of the Negroes in Virginia, is confirmed by other Letters; and Capt. Willis of the Amity, as he was coming from thence, diſcovered a Negro who had hid himſelf in his Ship, and being examined how he came on Board, ſaid, he was going Embaſſador from the Negroes to his Majeſty King George. However, his Excellency was turned aſhore, and whipt thro' every County to the Place from whence he came.

It is wrote from Jamaica, July 5. that 100 White Men being ſent out againſt ſome Run away Blacks, were all deſtroyed by thoſe Negroes. And that from March, 24, 1729. to June 24, 1730. 11,421 Hogſheads of Sugar had been exported from that Iſland, and 4631 Negroes brought in there from the Coaſt of Africa.

Sept. 22. Her Majeſty who has been much indiſpoſed with the Gout, is ſo well recovered, that ſhe now takes the Air.

BOSTON, *Nov.* 23. On Monday laſt arrived here Capt. Crocker from London, who brought with him Capt. Wier of Charleſton, and his Company, whoſe Ship in her Paſſage from the Weſt-Indies to London, loſt her Maſts, and ſprung a Leak about 300 Leagues Weſt of England.

On Saturday Night laſt, we had here a violent Storm of Wind and Rain, Wind at S. W. which has done very conſiderable Damage, particularly to the Shipping, one or two Veſſels entirely ſinking, ſome having their Sterns beat in, ſome have loſt their Maſts, and others have ſuſtained great Hurt; ſo that the Loſs hereby will amount to a great Sum.

Cuſtom-Houſe, *New-York*, Nov. 30. *Entred inwards.* Bourdet from Briſtol, Kirſted from Curacoa, Walter Currie and Buſh, from Rhode-Iſland, Gibbs from Barbadoes, Fletcher from Liverpool. *Entred out*, Ware for Jamaica, Wolf for St. Kitts, Payton for South Carolina, *Cleared for Departure*, Waye to Curacoa.

PHILADELPHIA, *December* 8.

By the Prints arrived in the late Veſſels from England it appears, That the vehement Droughth we had in all the Northern Parts of America laſt Summer, was felt no leſs in all Parts of Europe; from Muſcovy North, to Spain South; The Woods were in many Places on Fire, and ſeveral Villages and Towns have been burnt; of which we ſhall give more particular Accounts hereafter. It is not obſerved that any *Almanack-maker* in the World foretold this Univerſal dry Weather.

Cuſtom-Houſe, *Philadelphia*, *Entred inwards.*

Ship Molly, Samuel Cornock, from London.
---- Jenny, Edward Bryan, from Briſtol.

Entred outwards.

Brigt. Thiſtle, Thomas Glentworth, for Antigua.
Sloop Sea-flower, John Rice, for Cape Fear.
------ Happy, Benjamin Moulder, for Mountſerrat.
Scooner Adventure, John Gibbs, for Barbadoes.

Cleared out.

Ship Debby Gally, Thomas Lloyd, to Barbadoes.
---- Pine Apple, Richard Penketh, to Jamaica.
Brigt. Peggy, Ellis Davis, to Madera.
----- Henrietta, John Howell, to Ditto.
----- Dolphin, William Hill, to Antigua.
Sloop Chance, Francis Shores, to Barbadoes

Buried in the ſeveral Burying-Grounds of this City in a Week paſt.

Church	1.	Baptiſts		0.
Quakers	0.	Strangers	Whites	1.
Presbyterians	0.		Blacks	0.

(*†*) It is now above 14 Months ſince we undertook the Publiſhing this Paper; Thoſe Subſcribers who have taken it a Year, are deſired to ſend in their reſpective Payments.

Advertiſements.

To be SOLD;

A TRACT of Land containing about 2500 Acres, with a good Orchard and Saw-Mill, bounding on both ſides *Glouceſter River*, (commonly called *Timber-Creek*) in *Weſt-Jerſey*, well accomodated with great Quantity of Timber, and Meadow ſufficient to make three or four Farms; the chief Part will yield good Wheat, and lies very handy to the Markets, being but 12 Miles from this City, all Water-Carriage. All which (being the Eſtate of *Abraham Porter*, deceas'd) is valued at 1200 l. but may be ſold either whole or in Parcels. Any Perſon deſirous to purchaſe, may apply *Mahlon Stacey*, *Jonathan Wright*, and *Thomas Scattergood*, in *Burlington*, Truſtees to ſaid Eſtate; or to *Iſaac Porter* at *John Sherborn*'s in this City, of whom further Account may be had. *N. B.* The Condition of Payments muſt be ſome Caſh in Hand, and the Remainder in a reaſonable Time. *Philadelphia*, *Nov.* 21. 1730.

Philadelphia, *Decemb.* 1, 1730.

ALL Perſons indebted to *Thomas Willing*, late of this City, Merchant, are deſired forthwith to ſettle their Accounts with, and pay the Ballance to *Charles Willing* and *Joſeph Shippen*, jun. or they may expect Trouble.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by *B. Franklin* and *H. Meredith*, at the *New Printing-Office* near the Market, where Advertiſements are taken in, and all Perſons may be ſupplied with this Paper, at *Ten Shillings* a Year.